



"I've come to appreciate the beauty and joy of the outdoors here in Idaho, and I look forward to being in a position to be able to protect Idaho's environment." -- Carol Mascareñas

A Time to Serve -- INL official appointed to Idaho Board of Environmental Quality

by John Howze, *INL Communications*

The INL Director of Occupational Safety & Health, Carol Mascareñas, was honored recently when Idaho Gov. C.L. "Butch" Otter named her to a position on the Idaho Board of Environmental Quality.

Appointed to a four-year term, Mascareñas joins six other members on the board. The board adopts, amends or repeals the rules, codes and standards necessary for the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to carry out its mission under Idaho's Environmental Protection and Health Act.

The board also serves as an advisory body to DEQ, which is the environmental oversight and enforcement arm of Idaho's government.

"My heart has always been in the environmental side," Mascareñas says. "I'm a civil engineer with an environmental emphasis. I went to school knowing I wanted to work in hazardous waste cleanup."

Her lifelong interest in protecting the environment stems from her youth spent in southern California.

"Back when I was in high school, they used to have smog alerts," she recalls. "When they did, we could only play indoors in the gym." Also during her high school and college years, the nation's environmental conscience was awakened by events such as Times Beach and Love Canal – things that led directly to the Superfund cleanup process and stricter environmental regulations and controls.

"Those two events and others like them precipitated my interest in going into environmental work," she says.

Since 1991 and prior to attaining her current position, Mascareñas, a registered professional engineer, held technical and leadership positions at INL in environmental restoration, regulatory services and environmental compliance. Her early career work included two years with what is now the California EPA and an engineering firm specializing in waste management and environmental services.

If the state was looking for a balanced perspective and broad experience, in Mascareñas they found it.

"The governor was particularly interested that I am an environmental professional who has background in nuclear issues," Mascareñas said.

Having worked for the California Environmental Protection Agency for two years, she then worked in small business as an environmental consultant before joining INL, which gave her extensive environmental experience from an industry base.

Her appointment relates directly to her expertise in the area of solid waste, and her education, training and work at INL will benefit the board as it addresses air, water and other environmental issues.

By an affirmative vote of four of its members, the Board may adopt, amend or repeal the rules, codes and standards of DEQ that are necessary and feasible to carry out its purposes and provisions of the Environmental Protection and Health Act and to enforce the laws of the state.

DEQ, with assistance from the attorney general's office, is responsible for drafting rules for consideration by the board. Two basic types of rules—proposed and temporary—may be presented for adoption. Rules adopted by the Board have the force of law, but also are subject to legislative review.

Carol's husband, Sal, also works at INL. The couple has two children and they enjoy hunting, skiing and other outdoor activities.

Having come to Idaho as a newlywed with her husband, who grew up in Soda Springs, Carol Mascareñas came to love the state, despite its being so different from California where she grew up.

"When we first moved up here, Sal thought I'd only last a year," she recalled. "What has drawn me and kept me here has been the ability to enjoy

the outdoors. I've come to appreciate the beauty and joy of the outdoors and I look forward to being in a position to be able to protect Idaho's environment."

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